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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/050,808	03/30/1998	YUTAKA MACHIDA	MAT-5860	7277

7590 07/03/2006

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EXAMINER

WONG, ALLEN C

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2621

DATE MAILED: 07/03/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/050,808

Applicant(s)

MACHIDA, YUTAKA

Examiner

Allen Wong

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 April 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2,7 and 12-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 21 and 22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2,7 and 12-20 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments, see appeal brief, filed 4/19/06, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 2, 7 and 12-22 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 21-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. Specifically, independent claims 21 and 22 disclose decoding block N+1 in frame N+1 of successive frames, said method comprising the steps of: evaluating block N of frame N and block N-M of frame N-M of said signal, wherein blocks N-M, N and N+1 are in corresponding locations of frames N-M, N and N+1, respectively, $M \Rightarrow 1$; identifying an error in one of block N and block N-M; and using the other of block N and N-M to decode block N+1, wherein the applicants' specification does not disclose or mention these specific terms as specified in claims 21 and 22.

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3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claims 21-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential elements and steps, such omission amounting to a gap between the elements. See MPEP § 2172.01. The omitted elements are: $N \geq 2$ for the method and apparatus of claims 21-22 to function properly, otherwise, for instance, if $N=1$, and $M=1$, then a non-existent frame 0 would come out for frame $N-M$.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 21 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Igarashi (5,539,466) in view of Yamaguchi (5,737,022).

Regarding claims 21 and 22, Igarashi discloses an apparatus and method of decoding block $N+1$ in frame $N+1$ of successive frames (fig.19 is a decoder), said method comprising the steps of:

evaluating block N of frame N and block $N-M$ of frame $N-M$ of said signal, wherein blocks $N-M$, N and $N+1$ are in corresponding locations of frames $N-M$, N and $N+1$, respectively, $M \geq 1$ (see fig.6, note the evaluation of frame $N-M$, where $M \geq 1$, is "former frame", frame N is the "current frame", and frame $N+1$ is "later frame", wherein

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each frame has a corresponding macroblock in corresponding locations within each frame).

Igarashi does not specifically disclose identifying an error in one of block N and block N-M, and using the other of block N and N-M to decode block N+1. However, Yamaguchi teaches identifying an error in one of the blocks (fig.9A, element 103 and fig.25, element 123; col.6, ln.15-33, Yamaguchi discloses the determining the block that is not decodable from any of the frames, thus, including I, P and B frames, meaning that the previous, present and future frames can have errors identified; fig.8A, block X is the non-decodable block that is identified from the frame data), and using the other blocks for decoding image data (col.8, ln.15-28, Yamaguchi discloses the identification of the non-decodable block X is shown, and the image data with the decodable errorless blocks can be decoded by front prediction, in that the block image data from previous frame N-M (M=1) and current frame N can be used to forwardly decode the image data to obtain the future frame N+1). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teaching of Igarashi and Yamaguchi, as a whole, for efficiently coding and decoding image data in an accurate, precise manner (Yamaguchi col.4, ln.38-44).

Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claims 2, 7 and 12-20 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

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8. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: The prior art does not specifically disclose the combination of limitations of dependent claims 12, 16, 17 and 20.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Allen Wong whose telephone number is (571) 272-7341. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays to Thursdays from 8am-6pm Flextime.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James J. Groody can be reached on (571) 272-7418. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Allen Wong', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Allen Wong
Primary Examiner
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AW
6/26/06